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USDA PROVIDES FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE EQUIPMENT FOR WESTPORT

WESTPORT---The city will soon have up-to-date communication equipment for the fire department thanks to funding from the U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development. The new communication equipment will enhance the notification of firefighters in the event of emergencies such as medical, Haz-Mat, fire, and rescue, and subsequently improve the response time for the benefit the entire community of Westport.

According to Fire Chief Dan Prater, there have been times when the department has had difficulty getting enough firefighters to respond to calls. This is due in large part to old, heavy monitors that are inconvenient for firefighters to always carry with them, and also the lack of monitors for all personnel, who are then dependent on the emergency siren for notification. USDA Rural Development will provide \$5,200 in grant funding for the purchase of 18 new pagers and charging equipment to replace the old, out-dated pagers and radios. The total estimated cost for this equipment is \$7,800. The additional \$2,600 is provided by a grant from Grays Harbor Transit.

"USDA Rural Development is proud to be partnering with Grays Harbor Transit to provide funding for the City of Westport for this much needed emergency services project," said Jackie J. Gleason, Washington State Director for USDA Rural Development. USDA Rural Development is dedicated to enhancing the ability of rural communities to develop, grow, and improve their quality of life by targeting financial assistance and technical resources in areas of greatest need through activities of greatest potential.

The grant funds are being made available through USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities Program. Information on this and other USDA Rural Development programs may be obtained from any USDA Service Center or by visiting <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa>. ###